

ER 60-3619-a

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 Mr. William F. Hauck/  
 Director, Washington Office  
 The American Legion  
 1608 K Street, N.W.  
 Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hauck:

Thank you very much for your letter of  
 May 17 enclosing a copy of the speech made by  
 Commander McKneally at the American Legion  
 Founder's Day Celebration luncheon in St. Louis  
 on May 14.

I read Commander McKneally's talk with  
 interest and very much appreciate his kind words  
 of support for our activities here. I am  
 dropping him a note today telling him so.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

SECRET

Allen W. Dulles  
 Director

O/DCI [redacted] rad 19 May 60

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee  
 1 - DCI  
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SECRET

(EXECUTIVE RECORDS FILE) / }

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21 MAY 1960

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1603 K Street, N.W.  
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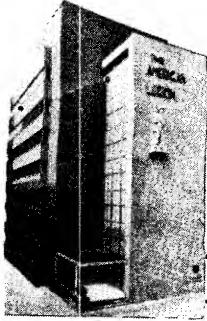
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Executive Registry

60-3619

## THE AMERICAN LEGION

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

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1608 K STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

WASHINGTON  
HEADQUARTERS

May 17, 1960

Hon. Allen W. Dulles, Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
2430 E Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I am enclosing a speech made by our National Commander over the weekend, regarding the airplane incident. In talking to Commander McKneally over the telephone, he indicated that it was very well received in Denver and St. Louis.

Also, I am enclosing a statement issued yesterday by the Commander in regard to the Summit Conference.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM F. HAUCK  
Director, Washington Office

WFH/mct

# news release



1608 K STREET, NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
EXecutive 3-4814

## THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Public Relations Division

NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION TELLS LEGIONNAIRES THAT "STRENGTH ALONE WILL PRESERVE THE PEACE AND FREEDOM." CANCELS OFFICIAL VISIT TO SOVIET RUSSIA.

Washington, D. C., May 16, 1960 . . . National Commander Martin B. McKneally, Newburgh, N. Y., informed the approximately three-million members of the official Legion stand on the current Summit Conference; differences between the two largest powers in the world. Commander McKneally said today:

"The apparent abrupt ending of the Summit Conference at Paris serves to make clear the issue facing the people of the world, i. e., the irreconcilable conflict between freedom and imperialistic designs and the objectives of Communism. It throws into bold and in somewise welcome relief the fundamental problem of our day, so perfectly personalized by Mr. Khrushchev, menacing and imperialistic, and President Eisenhower, conciliatory and idealistic.

"The least this dramatic episode does is to bring the people up out of the Limbo in which they have been living, wherein they have believed that Soviet objectives were altered and that friendly co-existence is possible. It has brought them face to face with the brutal facts of life.

"The President is to be commended for his endeavors to confer and thereby preserve the peace; he is to be admired for his courage in facing into the conflict. Now is the time for unified political thinking and action, for we have an enemy, . . . an enemy who considers himself free to spy and yet not to reveal, . . . an enemy which will yield only to strength.

Strength alone will preserve the peace and freedom. Any considerations for a visitation by your National Commander to the Soviet Union are ended. Where the President is not welcome, no American should deign to go.

FROM: National Public Relations Division, American Legion  
1608 K St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REMARKS OF NATIONAL COMMANDER MARTIN B. MCKNEALLY  
AT THE AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION  
LUNCHEON, ST. LOUIS, MO., MAY 14, 1960

Mr. President, Chairman Duggan, Mr. Johnston, Commander Gregg, Distinguished Guests:

It is a very high privilege for me to appear at this Luncheon of the Society of American Legion Founders. It constitutes and it should constitute the high point of any National Commander's term for it is here we reminisce and look to the future. We express pride in the past, acknowledge our gratitude to the heroic and visionary group of men who founded The American Legion and we examine the record of its accomplishments in an effort to chart its future course.

The American Legion stands solely as the architect of the rehabilitation program with its network of hospitals across the land which is monument enough for any group of founders but what of the millions of hours spent in hospital visitations. What of the millions of dollars spent in child welfare? What of the original thinking that chartered the course of the country in ways of preparedness or national security? What of the G.I. Bill, written by The American Legion and sponsored over the protest of professional educators? What of the development of a strong authentic voice in the field of Americanism? What of the multifarious arts of charity that have become a legend in the land? What a heritage - what a perfect description of the meeting here in St. Louis some 41 years ago, was written by the immortal Shakespeare when he penned the lines which read: "How far that little candle throws its beams, so shines a good deed in a naughty world."

I have said on previous occasions that The American Legion purpose in our day was the sustaining of the doctrine of belief upon which this nation was founded and without which it must perish, and that is the belief in the existence of God and in the dignity of human personality. I need not point out to you that today it is those twin beliefs which are under the most relentless and the most powerful attack in the history of mankind.

The American Legion holds in high esteem the profession and the office of the soldier. If it were not for the soldier there would be no America and there would be no hope for men who love freedom. In man's ceaseless struggle to be free, he must be willing to pay the enormous

costs of war. It is the melancholy record of fallen man, that his motivations conflict and collide. His will to do evil and his baseness must be reckoned with and the reckoning sometimes enslaves and it very frequently kills. I commend to your most reverent attention the thousands of graves abroad in cemeteries cared for by the American government and I direct you to the fact that five new cemeteries are to be dedicated this year. Hardly a word is written, a picture published concerning this subject and I am informed that this is so because the present day rationale of the American people is not to be reminded of the ugliness of the cost of freedom. Freedom and the cause of America we say to you, must never be computed in the terms of dollars and cents. The only item to be considered is the cost of men's lives. Reminiscence and reminders of this fact must be the number one item on the agenda of our daily lives, depression and sadness to the contrary notwithstanding.

For we have an enemy, an enemy that opposes everything that we hold dear and that enemy makes our age one of tremendous risks. And in this age there is no neutrality, we are either for freedom or we are against it. Fear of atomic destruction does not provide us with the solution of the dilemma. There is a considerable body of intellectuals whom the fear of atomic war has obsessed. They have made their objective in life only the preserving of existence. One reads of their thinking with a certain horrifying fascination. Phillip Toynbee states as follows: "In the terrible contest of nuclear war even the vital differences between communism and western freedom become almost unimportant."

The West he declares should, "negotiate at once with the Russians and get the best terms that are available." Since Russia in his estimation is now and will continue to remain stronger there is nothing to do for the West "but to negotiate from comparative weakness." He admits that this may well set up the total domination of the world by Russia in a few years. The Soviets would impose on us a regime which most of us detest but this is better than allowing the human race to destroy itself. And one of Toynbee's confreres observes, "I might not much mind living under Soviet domination."

These men are not communists but they have lost their will; they have lost it to fear and to despair, in the pursuit of existence. They have lost sight of the truth which is simple enough and that is that we in our day are faced with two destructive forces of incredible dimensions. The bomb represents material devastation, the communist party political destruction.

This is the solemn dilemma of our time and this is the foremost consideration of our people this afternoon. The administration in Washington has chosen by its continuation of nuclear testing, by the flight of the U-2 over the secret territory of the Soviets to pursue the ideal of political freedom. What kind of a nation with the holy

mission of preserving its sovereignty, its people and its freedom, would do less in the face of the gigantic dilemma. To sit by knowing what we know, facing what we face, and do nothing, would make the cemeteries of Europe where our honored dead are entombed, and the whole history of this Republic a gargantuan jest. The administration is charged through its intelligence service with the responsibility of providing for the safety of its people; its duty is plain and it is to gather the facts with which it may discharge that duty. Must we act as if its duty were less? Must we act as if the obtaining of information necessary to our own defense against a secretive and threatening power was to commit a sin? Are we to assume the abasing role of the boy caught with his hand in the cookie jar when we know the food there obtained is the only means of sustaining freedom and hope? I for one American, suffer no embarrassment and highly praise all those in authority who see clearly the bitter dilemma of these days. We of The American Legion do not seek to impose our views but we do propose to all that there is no flight from the serious business of our days and that is the survival of free man.

The late Albert Camus tells us, "with every dawn an assassin slips into some cell, murder is the question before us." This is the solemn keynote of our time, the murder of men and the murder of ideals. As Americans, let us conduct ourselves as men. Men of courage, men of faith and men of ideals. There is no other way open to us, for Americans may not be craven, they may not be pacifistic, they may not be men of despair.

In the world there is but one city in which we can dwell, it is the city of the halt, the blind, the maimed, but it is the city of charity, and it is the city of courage, the city of freedom. It is the City of God. Outside it is the night.